UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7167

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NIGER

IPF:(1987-91) $37 326 500
(NER/90/029) - Assistance to Higher Education

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	23 October 1991
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	UNV
Government implementing agency:	Directorate of the University in co-co-co-co-ordination with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 166 800 Source of funds: IPF

Project background

Niger lacks sufficient qualified higher education staff in various sectors of particular importance for the economic development, i.e. science, agronomy, pedagogy and public finance, and administration. UNV technical assistance (TA) in these fields has been provided since 1981 under a UNV umbrella project and since 1987, under a separate project (NER/87/003) - Assistance to Higher Education. An evaluation of this project took place in May 1990. The principal conclusion was that the project provided a highly qualified technical assistance in a situation where the needs are practically illimited. However, the lack of a set of criteria with regard to key priority posts and strict conditions for successful take over by national staff was not conducive for take over by trained national staff. The evaluation mission recommended that the role of UNV's TA would be assessed under the NaTCAP exercise and that conditions would be set with regard to appointment of counter part staff.

The Technical Co-operation Policy Framework Paper (TCPFP) elaborated under the NaTCAP exercise notes the Government's wish to obtain the services, as great an extent as possible, for technical assistance in this field from volunteers. The TCPFP document indicates the necessity to privilege specialized training and the transfer of knowledge. Three items of criteria have been set as a reference for TA: (i) institutional strengthening in the priority sectors; (ii) development of human resources; and (iii) areas where no national expertise is available.

The recommendations of the evaluation mission and the criteria of the TCPFP have been taken into account in this project. In light of this, UNDP assistance was requested under the present approval.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to provide qualified UNV technical assistance to two establishments of higher learning, i.e. the University of Niamey and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (L'ENA) in the following sectors: (i) Sciences (Chemistry, physiology, physio-chemistry, biology); (ii) Education sciences (Didactic of sciences and languages); and (iii) Law and public finances.

The UNVs will give theoretical and practical courses, participate in research programmes and participate in the evaluation of the students (written/oral examination) and participate in the discussions of the panel of examinators. According to necessary length of training the counterpart staff will take over and the post of UNV will be phased out. A scholarship to the counterpart prior to the recruitment of a UNV may be granted under project "Scholarships" subject to a bounding arrangement between counterpart and the Institute. The Co-ordination Unit/Steering Committee principle mandate will be to advise on modalities to assure effective replacement of volunteer TA by nationals trained to this effect.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 24 volunteers in the subsectors,i.e.: (i) Sciences (Chemistry, physiology, physio-chemistry, biology); (ii) Education sciences (Didactic of sciences and languages); and (iii) Law and public finances, each for the duration of two years (600 man-months); mission costs; equipment (non-consumable); and miscellaneous costs..

Financial data

	$
Personnel	1 110 800
Equipment	40 000
Miscellaneous	16 000
Total	1 166 800

- - - - -